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York; Albrecht Penck, Berlin, and Charles D. Walcott, Washington.

DR. W. J. HOLLAND, director of the Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, has received from the Czar of Russia, the insignia of a knight of the order of St. Stanislas, second class, in recognition of his services to science; and Mr. A. S. Coggeshall, the chief preparator in the section of paleontology in the same institution, has had conferred upon him by the same sovereign knighthood in the order of St. Anne.

DR. HENRY PRENTISS ARMSBY, director of the Institute of Animal Nutrition of the Pennsylvania State College, has been elected a member of the Royal Society of Arts of Great Britain.

DR. H. LORENZ, professor of physics at Leyden, and Dr. E. Strasburger, professor of botany at Bonn, have been elected members of the St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences.

DR. HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN, president of the American Museum of Natural History and Da Costa professor of zoology at Columbia University, was given a dinner by his former students at the Faculty Club of Columbia University, on February 18, in celebration of his thirtieth anniversary as a teacher. About forty-five guests and former students under Professor Osborn at Columbia and Princeton Universities were present. Speeches were made by Professors E. B. Wilson, W. B. Scott and C. F. W. McClure.

DR. HENRY M. HURD has retired from the superintendency of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, and is succeeded by Dr. W. H. Smith, superintendent of Bellevue Hospital, New York City.

DR. ANDREW W. PHILLIPS, since 1891 professor of mathematics in Yale College and since 1895 dean of the graduate school, will retire from active service at the close of the present academic year.

CHARLES JOYCE WHITE, professor of mathematics at Harvard University from 1885 to 1894, has been appointed emeritus professor, and William Barker Hills, associate professor of chemistry from 1889 to 1904, has been appointed emeritus associate professor.

THE University of La Plata and the University of Michigan have arranged for co-operation in the work of their astronomical observatories. Professor W. J. Hussey has been appointed director of La Plata Observatory, but is still to remain director of the observatory of the University of Michigan. He will divide his time equally between the two institutions, spending the second semester of each year at Ann Arbor. Mr. R. P. Lamont, of Chicago, is furnishing a 24-inch refracting telescope for the University of Michigan. It is the intention to take this instrument, when completed, to a favorable site in Argentina, and while it is there to have it used under the joint auspices of the two universities.

PROFESSOR GILBERT N. LEWIS, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will deliver eight lectures on "The Principle of Relativity," on Monday and Thursday afternoons, beginning on March 6, in the Jefferson Physical Laboratory of Harvard University.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

IN the Massachusetts senate on February 21 the committee on education reported a resolve, on the petition of Richard C. Maclaurin, president, and others, for an increase in the state appropriation for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The resolve provides that there shall be paid annually, for ten years, to the institute the sum of \$100,000, from January 1, 1912, to be expended under the direction of the corporation for the general purposes of the institute; the institute shall maintain forty free scholarships in addition to those already maintained.

MR. CARNEGIE recently wrote the board of trustees of the Carnegie Institute that he is prepared to increase the endowment income \$50,000 or \$100,000 a year if it can be shown that any department is hampered from lack of funds. The founder expects to visit Pittsburgh about May 1 to receive the report of the board.

AN alumnus, who wishes to remain anonymous, has given to Phillips Exeter Academy \$18,744, with which to complete the Wentworth mathematical fund of \$50,000. William

A. Francis has been elected the first Wentworth professor of mathematics. He has been professor of mathematics since 1892.

THE Ohio house has passed the Cahill bill, which had previously passed the senate, providing for the compulsory teaching of agriculture in the common schools of villages and townships.

ON February 15 and 16, about one hundred and sixty members of the Illinois general assembly went to the University of Illinois to make their biennial inspection. A convocation was held in the auditorium, at which time addresses were given by various members of the house and senate. In the afternoon a conference with members of the appropriation committee and heads of the departments was held, at which time the needs of the university were presented. The university is requesting from the legislature this year for maintenance and general equipment \$2,201,000; also for new buildings, the sum of \$1,150,000; for maintenance of the College of Medicine, \$200,000. In addition to these requests it also is supporting the request of the College of Agriculture for \$1,575,750 for maintenance and equipment. In addition to the above the mining interests of the state are supporting a bill proposing an appropriation of \$240,000 for the construction of the mining engineering building and maintenance of the department of mining engineering. The ceramic interests are likewise supporting a bill proposing an appropriation of \$45,000 for the department of ceramics.

DR. JOHN G. BOWMAN, secretary of the Carnegie Foundation, has been elected president of the Iowa State University to succeed Dr. George E. MacLean.

THE Rev. Dr. George Edward Reed has resigned the presidency of Dickinson College after twenty-two years of service.

RECENT appointments in the School of Mines of the University of Pittsburgh are Dr. Charles R. Eastman, of Harvard University, as professor of paleontology; Otto Emery Jennings, of the Carnegie Museum, as instructor in paleobotany, and James Z. Zimmerman as assistant in mining. Mr. George

T. Haldeman, instructor in mining, has recently been appointed superintendent of the Mine Rescue Work of the Lehigh Valley Coal Company and Mr. Edward L. Estabrook, assistant in mineralogy, has been appointed instructor in petrology at Lehigh University.

PROFESSOR VICTOR R. GARDNER, head of the department of horticulture at the University of Maine, has accepted the appointment of associate professor of pomology at the Oregon Agricultural College, to succeed Professor C. A. Cole, who has resigned to take up industrial work.

ERNEST GALE MARTIN, Ph.B. (Hamlin), Ph.D. (Johns Hopkins), has been promoted to an assistant professorship of physiology at Harvard University.

DR. TH. PAUL, professor of chemistry at Munich, has been appointed director of the laboratory of inorganic chemistry at Leipzig, to succeed Professor Ernst Beckmann.

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#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### THE AIR WE BREATHE IN BUILDINGS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Two or more years ago my attention was drawn to the astonishing and unfortunate condition of the throats and tonsils of school children and the number of children who had adenoids. This led, through a series of investigations, to a general study of the air which we breathe in buildings. This air we all know is, somehow or other, not as good for us, even under the best conditions of ventilation, as the open air.

For example, children in open-air schools systematically show greater increases in the number of red blood corpuscles during the school term than during vacation. The investigations of Benedict, Atwater, Paul, Heyman, Ercklentz and Flügge, and of Dr. Leonard Hill, of the London Hospital Medical College, have given us a body of as yet undigested, although fundamentally important, information.

Dr. Gilman Thompson and Dr. Brennan, of New York City, have changed the death rates in pneumonia and certain other diseases by placing the beds of patients either out of doors